

Claims:

1. An apparatus adapted to disseminate volatile liquid into an atmosphere, the apparatus comprising a reservoir (1) containing volatile liquid (2) and, extending into and
5 therefrom, an essentially cylindrical liquid transfer member (4) that transfers liquid from the reservoir to an evaporating surface (6) through which the transfer member passes by means of a hole in the evaporating surface, the evaporating surface comprising a rigid sheet that extends essentially laterally from the transfer member and that bears on its surface capillary channels adapted to accept liquid from the
10 transfer member and spread it over the surface of the evaporating surface, the transfer member being elastically compressible in diameter, with a diameter in its non-compressed form greater than that of the hole, and, prior to putting into service of the apparatus, being held in a compressed form of diameter smaller than that of the hole, and, on release of the compression, expandable into liquid transfer contact with the
15 evaporating surface.
2. An apparatus according to claim 1, in which the transfer member is held in compressed form by a rigid cylindrical member (5).
- 20 3. An apparatus according to claim 2, in which the cylindrical member has an external diameter that is the same as the diameter of the hole.
4. An apparatus according to claim 2, in which the apparatus is a single unit.
- 25 5. An apparatus according to claim 2, in which the apparatus consists of two units, with a separate evaporating surface that is adapted to be fitted over a cylindrical member prior to the removal of the cylindrical member.
6. A method of ensuring optimum liquid transfer contact between a transfer member
30 adapted to transfer volatile liquid to be disseminated into an atmosphere and a capillary channel-bearing evaporating surface that makes liquid transfer contact with the transfer member by means of a hole through which the transfer member protrudes,

comprising supplying the transfer member in compressed form, such that its compressed diameter is smaller than that of the hole but its uncompressed diameter is at least equal to that of the hole, and, in putting the apparatus into service, of releasing the compression.